

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

A new IDS is submitted herewith along with copies of all of the cited references.

Claims 12-18 have been canceled, rendering the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection thereof moot.

Claims 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rohrbacher. Claims 13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the same reference. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

Rohrbacher discloses that the finished composite structure comprises an outer layer of a glossy clear thermoplastic coating firmly bonded to a layer of a thermoplastic pigment, which contains a paint which, in turn, is adhered to a thin size layer of a thermoplastic pigment, which, in turn, is adhered to the flexible thermo-formable sheet of composite structure, column 2, lines 52 to 57. Figures 2 and 3 depict the layer sequences of the composite structures. Layer 4 is a paint coat or a pigmented coat which, with an adhesion layer 3, the thin layer is bonded to mat 2 of the composite structure.

The newly presented claims require the presence of a dyed film which is not believed to be disclosed by Rohrbacher, so Rohrbacher does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rohrbacher and Graefe. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The deficiencies of Rohrbacher are discussed above.

Graefe discloses the back-injection molding of a film, the second method for refining the surface. However, a dyed film is not back-injected, so taking the teaching of Graefe with that of

Rohrbacher, in which the entirely different method is disclosed, namely the thermal reshaping of the mats, does not lead the skilled artisan to the subject matter of the presently claimed invention.

Withdrawal of this rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rohrbacher in view of Furuya. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The deficiencies of Rohrbacher are discussed above.

The Examiner alleges that Furuya would also be suitable for coextrusion, and, therefore, that the use of coextruded films in flow-pressing is obvious to a person of skill in the art. However, there is no evidence that the film disclosed in Furuya can be used with such a method.

Furuya discloses coating the outer surface of the mat with a hard coating layer, but the claimed method with a dyed film is not disclosed. Thus, this rejection must be withdrawn.

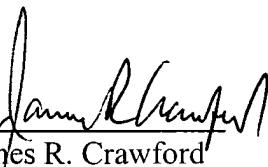
Withdrawal of this rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-289-US. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted

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